

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 5 and 7 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter. Please also AMEND claims 1-4, and 6, and ADD claims 8-14, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:

a reading apparatus main body having a document base on which an ~~for placing~~ a original document is placed and a scanning ~~means for scanning~~ unit which scans an image of the original document placed ~~by~~ on the document base;

a document pressing device which is provided ~~such~~ so that the ~~apparatus~~ document pressing device is rotatable with respect to the reading apparatus main body; and

an opening/closing unit which supports the document pressing device ~~such~~ so that the document pressing device is movable between a pressing position where the original document is pressed on the document base and an opening position where the original document is released, ~~the apparatus is capable of being opened/closed with respect to the reading apparatus main body and has a mechanism for applying a predetermined force in a direction of opening the document pressing device;~~

wherein the document pressing device has a pressing plate which presses for pressing the original document ~~placed~~ on the document base and a plurality of elastic members provided apart from each other on a face of the pressing plate opposite to the document base between a center of rotating of the document pressing device and an opening/closing end of the document pressing device, ~~of the pressing plate, and~~

wherein the opening/closing unit has a force applying mechanism which applies a predetermined force in a direction so that a weight of the document pressing device is reduced and had an adjusting mechanism which adjusts the height of the document pressing device with respect to the reading apparatus main body on the pressing position so that the plurality of elastic members are deformed when the document pressing device moves the pressing position, and

the restoration forces by deformation of the plurality of elastic members on the pressing position ~~generated by deformation when the document pressing device is closed with respect to the reading apparatus main body~~ are set to be smaller ~~such~~ so that the elastic members ~~go apart~~ are disposed at a position further from the center of rotating of the document pressing device.

2. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the plurality of elastic members have a smaller thickness ~~of the elastic member~~ as the elastic member are disposed at a ~~farther~~ position further from the center of rotating of the document pressing device.

3. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the plurality of elastic members have a smaller modulus of elasticity as the elastic members are disposed at a ~~farther~~ position further from the center of rotating of the document pressing device.

4. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the plurality of elastic members have a smaller contact area with the pressing plate as the elastic members are disposed at a ~~farther~~ position further from the center of rotating of the document pressing device.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the document pressing device ~~has~~ further comprises a document feeding ~~means~~ unit which conveys the original document to a scanning position on a ~~a~~ the document base.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

8. (New) The image reading apparatus according to claim 6,

wherein the document feeding unit has a guide which guides the original document to a scanning position on a document base,

further comprising:

a holding member which holds a gap between the guide and the document base at a predetermined size; and

an adjusting member which adjusts the predetermined gap by the holding member.

9. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image reading apparatus which scans an original document image; and

an image forming unit which forms an image based on information of the scanned original document image,

the image reading apparatus comprising:

a reading apparatus main body having a document base on which an original document is placed and scanning unit which scans an image of the original document placed on the document base;

a document pressing device which is provided so that the document pressing device is rotatable with respect to the reading apparatus main body; and

an opening/closing unit which supports the document pressing device so that the document pressing device is movable between a pressing position where the original document is pressed on the document base and an opening position where the original document is released,

wherein the document pressing device has a pressing plate which presses the original document on the document base and a plurality of elastic members provided apart from each other on a face of the pressing plate opposite to the document base between a center of rotating of the document pressing device and an opening/closing end of the document pressing device,

wherein the opening/closing unit has a force applying mechanism which applies a predetermined force in a direction so that a weight of the document pressing device is reduced and has an adjusting mechanism which adjusts the height of the document pressing device with respect to the reading apparatus main body on the pressing position so that the plurality of elastic members are deformed when the document pressing device moves the pressing position, and

the restoration forces by deformation of the plurality of elastic members on the pressing position are set to be smaller so that the elastic members are disposed at a farther position from the center of rotating of the document pressing device.

10. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein the plurality of elastic members have a smaller thickness as the elastic member are disposed at a position further from the center of rotating of the document pressing device.

11. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein the plurality of elastic members have a smaller modulus of elasticity as the elastic members are disposed at a position further from the center of rotating of the document pressing device.

12. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9,
wherein the plurality of elastic members have a smaller contact area with the pressing plate as the elastic members are disposed at a position further from the center of rotating of the document pressing device.

13. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the document pressing device has a document feeding unit which conveys the original document to a scanning position on the document base.

14. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 13,
wherein the document feeding unit has a guide which guides the original document to a scanning position on the document base, and
said image forming apparatus further comprises:
a holding member which holds a gap between the guide and the document base at a predetermined amount; and
an adjusting member which adjusts the predetermined amount held by the holding member.